

SCIENTIFIC TECHNICIAN 2
FISH PROGRAM, WILD SALMON PRODUCTION/EVALUATION UNIT
LONGVIEW, WA, LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER

OPEN: July 20, 2010-----CLOSES: August 10, 2010

Job Summary

There is currently one Scientific Technician 2 position with the Fish Science Program, Wild Salmon Production/Evaluation Unit: This is a full-time, non-permanent position located in Longview, WA, working on three Lower Columbia River tributary streams. The job starts on August 20, 2010 and is funded through January 31, 2011. Salary range is \$2,426.00 - \$2,789.00 per month.

This technician in this position will assist in three projects planned for Mill, Abernathy and Germany Creeks: 1) Parr abundance surveys, including PIT tagging of coho parr; 2) Operation of an adult fish trap in Abernathy Creek; and 3) conducting coho spawner surveys in all three watersheds.

Key activities

- 1) Conduct juvenile parr surveys in late-summer and early-Fall
 - Assist in juvenile seining activities in numerous locations on three study streams.
 - Collect, handle, and identify juvenile salmonids to species and life stage.
 - PIT tag juvenile (parr stage) salmonids and record relevant biological information.
 - Apply other marks and/or collect tissue samples as directed for associated studies.
- 2) Conduct upstream migrant trapping and tagging study during Fall-Winter.
 - Assist in the installation, operation & maintenance of the Abernathy Creek upstream Resistance Board Weir.
 - Trap and handle live adult salmonids; collect relevant information on species composition, sex, age, size, mark status, tag presence and condition. Collect scale samples and apply secondary marks/ Floy tags for later detection in spawner surveys.
- 3) Conduct coho spawner surveys on Mill, Abernathy and Germany Creeks during Fall-Winter.
 - Carry out systematic foot surveys of entire watersheds.
 - Locate and identify live fish, redds and carcasses according to study methodology.
 - Establish and record GPS coordinates of survey reaches and biological observations.
- 4) Record and verify field data and enter into computer spreadsheets or databases.
- 5) Other related duties as assigned.

This position works with ESA listed salmonids and uses a variety of materials and scientific equipment, requiring close attention to detail. Research conducted by this position is part of the Lower Columbia IMW juvenile and adult monitoring project. This study evaluates coho freshwater survival and response to biological research treatment applications. Upstream migrant trapping and spawner surveys provide valuable data relative to escapements, spawner distribution, hatchery straying rates and native smolt survival to adult return.

Working Conditions

This position requires a flexible work schedule: Day, night, weekend, and holiday work, with irregular and non-standard working hours, may be required. About 85% of the work is in the field, requiring physical work in rugged terrain, often during inclement weather (extreme heat or cold, rain, wind and snow), and in potentially dangerous conditions, such as high and swift water, debris flows, and slippery conditions.

Weather during fall and winter months can greatly affect stream flow, fish migration and survey capabilities. The adult weir operates 24/7, often requiring non-stop cleaning to maintain trap integrity. The incumbent will be required to coordinate with other staff on a daily basis to ensure field activities are being completed to meet project guidelines.

Trap components, installation equipment and fish sampling gear are transported to field sites using manual labor. The job requires teamwork to manipulate heavy and unwieldy equipment and debris of varying shapes and sizes, potentially weighing more than 100 pounds. Processing live adult salmon in excess of 20 lbs requires dexterity and upper-body strength. The employee must be able to swim, and able to walk in chest waders and raingear 4-5 miles/day. A valid driver's license is required for travel between field sites.

Competencies and Qualifications

Well qualified applicants for this position will demonstrate competencies in the following areas:

- Proficiency in identification, enumeration, handling and marking of juvenile and adult salmonids and other fishes.
- Experience with stream seining of juvenile salmonids and biological data collection.
- Experience with installation/operation of adult fish traps, incl. resistance board weirs.
- Experience with PIT tagging of juvenile salmonids and PIT tag detection.
- Experience walking stream surveys & collecting fish/ redd count data.
- Proficiency in using GPS units to identify geographic coordinates and redd locations.
- Working knowledge of Excel and data entry into spreadsheets.
- Ability to communicate and work well with other fellow technicians in difficult conditions.

To Be Considered

Please send an application, and cover letter to Patrick.Hanratty@dfw.wa.gov or fax to (360) 902-2944 by 5:00 p. m. **August 10, 2010.**